

POST OFFICE (CONTRACT FOR ACCELERATED MAIL
SERVICE TO AND FROM IRELAND
VIA CARLISLE, STRANRAER AND LARNE).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 25 February 1903,—for,

COPY "of CONTRACT, dated 8th November 1902, with the GLASGOW
AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY, the PORTPATRICK AND WIGTOWN-
SHIRE JOINT COMMITTEE, and the BELFAST AND NORTHERN COUNTIES
RAILWAY COMPANY, for an ACCELERATED MAIL SERVICE to and from
Ireland via Carlisle, Stranraer and Larne; together with a Copy of
the Treasury Minute thereon, dated 23rd February 1903."

Treasury Chambers,
4 March 1903. }

W. HAYES FISHER



(*Mr. Hayes Fisher.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
4 March 1903.

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1903.

HIS MAJESTY'S POSTMASTER GENERAL
AND
THE GLASGOW AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY
COMPANY THE PORTPATRICK AND WIGTOWN-
SHIRE JOINT COMMITTEE THE BELFAST
AND NORTHERN COUNTIES RAILWAY COMPANY.

ACCELERATED MAIL SERVICE TO AND FROM
IRELAND via CARLISLE, STRANRAER and LARNE.

This Indenture made the 8th day of November 1902 Parties.
between THE GLASGOW AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY
COMPANY of the first part THE PORTPATRICK AND WIGTOWN-
SHIRE JOINT COMMITTEE of the second part THE BELFAST
AND NORTHERN COUNTIES RAILWAY COMPANY of the third
part and The Right Honourable JOSEPH AUSTEN
CHAMBERLAIN M.P. His Majesty's Postmaster General
(herein-after called "the Postmaster General" in which
term is included any and every his successors in office
His Majesty's Postmaster General for the time being)
on behalf of HIS MAJESTY of the fourth part.

WHEREAS the system of railways at present extending Recitals.
between the city of Carlisle and the harbour at Stranraer is
(with other railways) owned as follows that is to say the
section between Carlisle and Gretna Junction by the Cale-
donian Railway Company the section between Gretna Junction
and Castle Douglas by the said Glasgow and South-Western
Railway Company and the section between Castle Douglas
and the harbour at Stranraer by the London and North-
Western Railway Company the Midland Railway Company
the Caledonian Railway Company and the Glasgow and
South-Western Railway Company.

AND WHEREAS the said Glasgow and South-Western Railway
Company has full legal power and authority to enter into
the Contract contained in these presents for the purpose of
carrying the Mails as herein-after defined and described over
the section of the said Caledonian Railway Company's under-
taking between Carlisle and Gretna Junction aforesaid and
the said Portpatrick and Wigtownshire Joint Committee
have full legal power and authority to bind by these presents
as regards the railway undertaking between Castle Douglas
and Stranraer Harbour and also as regards the steamship
service between Stranraer and Larne the said London and

North-Western Railway Company the said Caledonian Railway Company the said Glasgow and South-Western Railway Company and the said Midland Railway Company and they and also the said Belfast and Northern Counties Railway Company have also power to enter into the Covenants and Agreements herein-after contained with reference to the steamship service.

AND WHEREAS the Postmaster General has with each of the said four last-mentioned Railway Companies as well as with the said Belfast and Northern Counties Railway Company certain Contracts for the conveyance of Mails over their respective undertakings and in particular has entered into a certain Contract with the said Portpatrick and Wigtownshire Joint Committee dated 29th April and 12th May 1857 under which the said Committee have in consideration of the annual subsidy of 2924*l.* undertaken to convey the Mails as therein mentioned until the 30th day of June 1891 and thereafter until the said Contract is determined by six months' previous notice in writing by either of the parties hereto.

AND WHEREAS the Portpatrick and Wigtownshire Joint Committee and the said Belfast and Northern Counties Railway Company have a line of steam vessels plying between Stranraer and Larne in connexion with the respective undertakings of the Portpatrick and Wigtownshire Joint Committee and the Belfast and Northern Counties Railway Company and such steam vessels being owned and worked by Railway Companies are therefore subject to and within the provisions of the Post Office (Parcels) Act 1882 with respect to remuneration for the carriage of Post Office parcels by the said steam vessels.

AND WHEREAS an arrangement was in the year 1892 arrived at between the parties hereto of the first second and third parts on the one hand and the Postmaster General on the other hand for the purpose of securing an accelerated conveyance of letters and other postal packets being Mails as herein-after defined each way between England and Ireland by the route between Carlisle and Belfast and Londonderry and other places in Ireland via Stranraer and Larne and such arrangement is comprised in an Indenture of Contract (herein-after called "the existing Contract") dated the 22nd day of December 1892 and made between the said Glasgow and South-Western Railway of the first part the said Portpatrick and Wigtownshire Joint Committee of the second part the Belfast and Northern Counties Railway Company of the third part and the Right Honourable Arnold Morley then Her Majesty's Postmaster General on behalf of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria of the fourth part And whereas it has been agreed that the existing Contract shall be superseded by these presents as on and as from the 1st day of July 1901.

NOW THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH that in pursuance of the said Agreement and for the considerations herein it is hereby agreed and declared between and by the parties hereto and the said Glasgow and South-Western Railway Company the Portpatrick and Wigtownshire Joint Committee and the Belfast and Northern Counties Railway Company for themselves and their assigne respectively (as to the Covenants Agreements and stipulations herein-after contained on their part) Do hereby covenant and agree with the Postmaster General and the Postmaster General (as to the Covenants and Agreements herein-after contained on his part) Doth hereby covenant and agree with the said Companies and Committee and their assigns respectively in manner following that is to say:

Covenants by the Companies and Committee and the Postmaster General respectively.

1. The existing Contract is hereby determined as on and from the said 1st day of July 1901.

Existing Contract determined.

2. The above-recited Contract of the 29th April and 12th May 1887 between the Postmaster General and the Portpatrick and Wigtownshire Joint Committee shall except in so far as the hours of running the trains carrying the Mails thereunder may be varied by these presents annul and be in force (subject however to the power therein reserved to the Postmaster General of determining the same for non-observance of the covenants therein contained) until the 30th day of June 1906 on or after which date it shall be determinable on twelve calendar months' previous notice in writing being given by the Committee to the Postmaster General or the Postmaster General to the Committee to determine the same.

Contract of 29th April and 12th May 1887 to annul.

3. This Contract shall be without prejudice to all or any of the Contracts or arrangements at present existing between the herein-before recited Railway Companies and the Postmaster General for the conveyance of the Mails over their respective undertakings save and except so far as such Contracts or arrangements are altered by or are not consistent with these presents.

Contract to be without prejudice to certain existing Mail Contracts.

4. When used in these presents the expression "Glasgow Company" shall mean the said Glasgow and South-Western Railway Company the expression "Committee" shall mean the Portpatrick and Wigtownshire Joint Committee as representing legally and fully all the interests in these presents of the said London and North-Western Midland Caledonian and Glasgow and South-Western Railway Companies as regards the said railway undertaking between Castle Douglas and Stranraer Harbour and also as regards the steamship service between Stranraer and Larne and the expression "railway system" shall mean the said railway between Castle Douglas and Stranraer Harbour and the

Definition clause.

expression "Glasgow system" shall mean the said sections of railways used between Carlisle and Castle Douglas the expression "steamship service" shall mean the service of the steam vessels of the Committee and the said Belfast and Northern Counties Railway Company plying as herein mentioned between Stranraer and Larne the expression "Belfast Company" shall mean the Belfast and Northern Counties Railway Company and the expression "Belfast system" shall mean their entire railway undertaking between Belfast Larne and Londonderry the expression "Inspector" shall mean the Inspector General of Mails or such other officer of the Post Office as the Postmaster General or the Inspector General of Mails shall from time to time depute and the expression "Mails" shall for the purposes of this Contract be considered to mean and include all letters newspapers and other postal packets except parcels and all bags containing the same and also all empty bags usually forwarded as Mails and all stores and other articles used or to be used in carrying on the Post Office service under this Contract as shall for that purpose be tendered to the parties hereto of the first second and third parts respectively or any of their servants or agents by the Postmaster General or any of his agents or officers together with the guards (if any) in charge of the same and any other officers of the Post Office connected and travelling with such Mails as the Postmaster General or Inspector shall from time to time require.

Covenant to convey Mails.

5. The Glasgow Company Committee and Belfast Company shall well and truly carry and forward the Mails on the Glasgow system the railway system by the steamboat service and on the Belfast system each respectively once each way (Sundays excepted) in the manner and subject to the hours of despatch and arrival and places times and duration of stoppages set forth in the First Second Third and Fourth Schedules hereto respectively whether such Mails be under the charge of a person appointed by the Postmaster General or the Inspector or not and also shall convey with the said Mails all guards sorters and messengers in charge of same and the Inspector and such officer or officers as he may from time to time require.

Proviso for altering times of Mail Train and Boat Service in certain contingencies.

6. In the event of the train which daily leaving Euston Square Terminus at 8.30 p.m. is timed to arrive at Carlisle at 2.48 a.m. or the train which returning is timed to leave Carlisle for Euston Square Terminus daily at 12.5 a.m. or either of them being altered the Glasgow Company Committee and Belfast Company shall alter accordingly so as to be adjusted to and to fit with said altered train or trains the service hereby respectively agreed to be rendered as set forth in the First Second Third and Fourth Schedules hereto.

7. The Glasgow Company shall at their expense provide and maintain a special sorting carriage not less than forty-two feet long fitted up for sorting Mails on the said Glasgow and railway systems.

Glasgow Company to provide special sorting carriage.

8. The Committee shall also provide and maintain at their expense not less than two good substantial and efficient steam vessels of adequate power and speed properly equipped and manned each fitted up with proper and sufficient cabin accommodation for sorting Mails and to the satisfaction of the Inspector.

Committee to provide at least two proper and efficient steam-vessels.

9. The Belfast Company shall also provide and maintain at their expense for the conveyance and sorting of Mails on the Belfast system as may be required by the Inspector a suitable sorting carriage or carriages but the reasonable costs of the fittings and appliances for sorting Mails and the maintenance thereof in such carriage shall be borne by the Postmaster General and by him paid to the Belfast Company.

Belfast Company to provide sorting carriage if required.

10. The respective sorting carriages and cabin accommodation before mentioned shall all be provided to the reasonable satisfaction of the Inspector.

All such accommodation to be to the satisfaction of the Inspector.

11. The porters and other servants of the Glasgow Company Committee and Belfast Company respectively at the terminal and other stations on the Glasgow system the railway system and on the Belfast system and at the piers at Stranraer and Larne shall assist in loading and unloading the Mails as well from and into the railway carriages or steam vessels as also into and from all vehicles used in bringing any such Mails to or from any terminal or intermediate station on the railway system or on the Belfast system as in all cases to effect the loading unloading shipment and transhipment as speedily as possible.

Servants of the Companies and Committee to assist in loading transhipping and unloading Mails.

12. The Glasgow Company Committee and Belfast Company shall at their own costs provide all such reasonable accommodation for the conveyance of the Mails as the Postmaster General or Inspector shall from time to time require and shall also take and adopt all measures and precautions for the safety of the same to the satisfaction of the Postmaster General or Inspector and they also shall provide such reasonable accommodation for the use of the guards sorters or officers in charge of the said Mails as the Inspector may approve of or require.

The Companies and Committee to provide suitable accommodation for the Mails and for their safety.

13. In the event of any accident happening upon the Glasgow system railway system the steamboat service or the Belfast system whereby the conveyance of the Mails whether with or without Post Office guards or officers may

In the event of accident causing delay the Companies and Committee to expedite Mails.

be stopped impeded or delayed or in the event of any train or carriage being without occurrence of any accident delayed so as to prevent any such Mails guards or officers arriving at the different stations upon the said Glasgow system railway system or Belfast system at the several times appointed for that purpose then and in each such case the parties hereto of the first second and third parts respectively shall forthwith at their own cost and without any notice or requisition from or by the Postmaster General or any other officer of the Post Office and with the least possible hindrance or delay forward the said Mails and the said guards and officers if any be in charge of the said Mails by express or special trains to their respective place or places of destination.

The Companies and Committee to permit full access and egress to officers of the Post Office in charge of or attending to the Mails.

14. The Glasgow Company Committee and Belfast Company their officers servants and agents shall permit any officer of the Post Office sent or travelling with any Mails to take up receive deliver leave and take away mails or post letter bags at any terminal or other station or pier at which the train or steamboats by which he may travel shall stop and shall also permit any officer guard or messenger of the Post Office to enter upon any railway station or pier and pass to the platform or other place where the train or steamboat shall stop for the purpose of delivering leaving receiving or taking away any Mails sent or to be sent under or by virtue of this Contract.

And so railways to affix apparatus.

15. The Glasgow Company Committee and Belfast Company respectively shall also permit any officer of the Post Office to affix and use the bag apparatus at such points on the section of the Glasgow system between Gretna Junction and Castle Douglas railway system or Belfast system as may be thought necessary and also to affix such apparatus to and use it in any carriages employed in the Mail Service on such railways the affixing and maintenance of such bag apparatus to be in all such cases at the cost and expense of the Postmaster General. Provided that such apparatus shall not be fixed at any station nor so as to endanger life or property and the Postmaster General shall indemnify the Glasgow Company the Committee and the Belfast Company respectively against all legal liability to make compensation or otherwise in consequence of any injury which may be occasioned by the erection working or maintenance of any such apparatus.

Postmaster General to pay for services under this Contract 13,500*l*.

16. The Postmaster General shall during this Contract in full compensation for the services to be performed as herein set forth by each of the parties hereto of the first second and third parts well and truly pay or cause to be paid out of such aids or supplies as may from time to time be provided and appropriated by Parliament for the purpose unto the Committee in full payment for all such services the sum of

13,500*l.* sterling in every year by quarterly payments and so in proportion for any less period than a quarter and the said annual payment of 13,500*l.* shall be held to be remuneration in full for all services performed or to be performed under this Contract save as mentioned in Clause 9 thereof.

17. The said sum of 13,500*l.* shall be paid to the Committee and the receipt of the Committee under their common seal shall be a full and sufficient discharge to the Postmaster General who shall not be in any way liable or responsible for the distribution of the said money amongst the parties hereto of the first second and third parts.

Said subsidy to be paid to the Committee whose seal shall be sufficient discharge.

18. If by reason of the default of the Glasgow Company Committee or Belfast Company or any of their servants the Postmaster General his deputies or servants shall at any time during the continuance of this Contract be obliged to forward any of the Mails guards or officers at the public expense then and in every such case it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General to retain out of the moneys hereinbefore agreed to be paid to the Committee all such sums as he shall so expend in forwarding such Mails guards or officers and in case the said moneys so retained shall not be sufficient for that purpose then the Committee shall pay to the Postmaster General the amount of such deficiency on receiving a written demand for same.

Postmaster General to be empowered to deduct in case of default &c.

19. In the event of the Postmaster General deducting in cases of default under the power herein contained in the 18th section of these presents any portion of the said annual sum of 13,500*l.* it shall be the duty of the parties hereto of the first second and third parts to apportion by arrangement or agreement amongst themselves the amount of the deficiency thereby caused in the said annual payment and the Postmaster General shall not be in any way called upon to interfere in or be responsible for such apportionment as aforesaid.

In such event Postmaster General not to be responsible as to apportionment.

20. This Contract shall (subject however to the power herein-after reserved to the Postmaster-General of determining the same for non-observance of the Covenants herein contained) be deemed to have commenced as on and from the 1st day of July 1901 and shall continue in force until the 30th day of June 1906 on or after which date it shall be determinable on twelve calendar months' previous notice in writing to be given by the Committee to the Postmaster General or by the Postmaster General to the Committee without prejudice to any right of action or other proceeding which shall then have accrued to either party for any breach of contract but so long as this Contract shall not have been determined as aforesaid the parties hereto of the first second

Contract to endure till 30th of June 1906 and then or afterwards to expire subject to 12 months' notice.

and third parts shall not be at liberty to require any arbitration under the 17th section of "the Railways (Conveyance of Mails) Act 1838" in reference to any of the services hereby agreed to be performed by them in consideration of the said payment of 13,500*l.* per annum.

Postmaster General may determine Contract in case of default.

21. If the Glasgow Company Committee and Belfast Company shall not respectively well and faithfully perform all or any of the Covenants and Agreements in this Contract and on their part and behalf to be kept and performed but not otherwise it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General by notice in writing under his hand at any time to put an end to this Contract and thereupon the same shall be null and void subject nevertheless and without prejudice to any right of action which shall then have accrued to the Postmaster General for the time being for any breach by the parties hereto of the first second and third parts of any of the Covenants or Agreements herein-before contained.

Post Office officials to be furnished with a warrant.

Provide as to notices on either side.

22. Provided that all the guards and other officers of the Post Office who under the provisions of this Contract are to be carried and conveyed on the said lines of railway shall be furnished with a warrant or other authority to the said parties hereto of the first second and third parts from the Inspector And every notice in writing to be given to the Glasgow Company Committee or the Belfast Company and their respective assigns under or by virtue or in pursuance of this present Contract shall be considered as duly given to them by being delivered to each of the Secretaries for the time being of the Glasgow Company Committee and Belfast Company and every notice in writing to be given to the Postmaster General by the said parties or any of them shall be given by the Committee and shall be considered as duly given to the Postmaster General by being delivered to the Secretary for the time being of the General Post Office or the Inspector.

The Companies and Committee not to underlet Contract.

23. It shall not be lawful or competent for the Glasgow Company Committee or the Belfast Company at any time or times during the continuance of this Contract without the consent of the Postmaster General for the time being first had and obtained to give grant bargain sell assign set let underlet or otherwise part with or dispose of this present Contract or undertaking or any part thereof or the benefit advantage or profit thereof or of the several covenants matters and things herein contained to any person or persons whomsoever.

Provide excluding Member of Parliament from Contract.

24. In pursuance of the directions contained in "the House of Commons (Disqualification) Act 1782" no Member of the House of Commons shall be admitted to any share or

part of this Contract or to any benefit to arise therefrom contrary to the true intent and meaning of the said Act.

25. This Contract shall be without prejudice to the rights of any of the parties hereto respectively under "the Post Office (Parcels) Act 1882."

Contract to be without prejudice to "Post Office (Parcels) Act 1882."

26. And this Indenture also witnesseth that for the due and faithful performance of all and singular the covenants conditions provisoes clauses articles and agreements hereinbefore contained which on the part and behalf of the Glasgow and South-Western Railway Company the Portpatrick and Wigtownshire Joint Committee and the Belfast and Northern Counties Railway Company are or ought to be observed performed fulfilled and kept the said Companies and Committee do hereby bind themselves and their successors jointly and severally unto Our Sovereign Lord the King in the sum of 5000*l.* of lawful money of the United Kingdom to be paid to our said Lord the King his heirs and successors by way of stipulated or ascertained damages hereby agreed upon between the Postmaster General and the Glasgow and South-Western Railway Company the Portpatrick and Wigtownshire Joint Committee and the Belfast and Northern Counties Railway Company in case of the failure on the part of the said Companies and Committee or any of them respectively in the due execution of this Contract or any part thereof.

Bond.

27. This Contract shall not be binding until it has been approved by a resolution of the House of Commons.

Contract to be subject to the approval of the House of Commons.

SCHEDULES referred to in the foregoing Indenture.

All Daily.—Sundays excepted.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

"The Glasgow System."

Time Bill No. 1. Down.	TO IRELAND.				English Time.
	<i>Carlisle to Castle Douglas.</i>				
	Carlisle	-	-	dep.	3 10 a.m.
	Dumfries	-	-	arr.	3 50 "
	"	-	-	dep.	3 55 "
	Dalbeattie	-	-	dep.	4 18 "
	Castle Douglas	-	-	arr.	4 25 "
56.	0				9

Time Bill No. 2.	FROM IRELAND.			English Time.
	<i>Castle Douglas to Carlisle.</i>			
Up.	Castle Douglas	-	dep.	10 35 p.m.
	Dumfries	-	arr.	11 4 "
	"	-	dep.	11 7 "
	Carlisle	-	arr.	11 47 "

SECOND SCHEDULE

"The Railway System."

Time Bill No. 3. Down.	TO IRELAND.			English Time.
	<i>Castle Douglas to Stranraer Harbour.</i>			
	Castle Douglas	-	dep.	4 26 a.m.
	Newton Stewart	-	arr.	5 8 "
	"	-	dep.	5 11 "
	Stranraer Harbour	-	arr.	5 47 "

Time Bill No. 4. Up.	FROM IRELAND.			English Time.
	<i>Stranraer Harbour to Castle Douglas.</i>			
	Stranraer Harbour	-	dep.	9 8 p.m.
	Newton Stewart	-	arr.	9 45 "
	"	-	dep.	9 48 "
	Castle Douglas	-	arr.	10 32 "

THIRD SCHEDULE

"The Steamboat Service."

TO IRELAND.			
Time Bill No. 5.	Leave Stranraer Harbour	6 0 a.m.	English Time.
Down.	Arrive Larne Harbour	7 46 "	Irish Time.

	FROM IRELAND.		
Time Bill No. 6.	Leave Larne Harbour -	6 20 p.m.	Irish Time.
Up.	Arrive Stranraer Harbour	8 55 "	English Time.

FOURTH SCHEDULE

"The Belfast System."

	TO IRELAND.		Irish Time.
Time Bill No. 7. Down.	Leave Larne Harbour -	-	7 56 a.m.
	Arrive Belfast -	-	8 35 "
	Leave Larne Harbour -	-	7 51 "
	Arrive at Ballymena (via narrow gauge) -	-	8 51 "
	Arrive at Ballymoney (via main line) -	-	9 53 "
	Arrive at Coleraine -	-	10 5 "
	" at Limavady Junction -	-	10 34 "
	" at Limavady -	-	10 45 "
Alternative Time Bill No. 7. Down.	Note.—If the Mails should not reach Larne Harbour at or before 8.15 a.m. Irish time the Belfast Company shall be at liberty without incurring any penalty to forward them to Ballymena and places North thereof via Greenisland as follows:—		
	Leave Larne Harbour by Belfast Mail Train to connect at Greenisland with train leaving Belfast at		Irish Time. 9 45 a.m.
	Arrive Ballymena -	-	11 10 "
	" Ballymoney -	-	11 58 "
	" Coleraine -	-	12 10 p.m.
	" Limavady Junction -	-	1 0 "
	" Limavady -	-	1 10 "
	" Londonderry -	-	1 35 "

Time Bill No. 8. Up.	FROM IRELAND.		
	Leave Londonderry	- -	
	" Limsavady	- -	3 10 p.m.
	" Limsavady Junction	- -	3 15 "
	" Coleraine	- -	3 33 "
	" Coleraine	- -	4 5 "
	" Ballymoney	- -	4 20 "
	" Ballymena (with narrow gauge)	- -	5 0 "
	" Larne Harbour	- -	6 20 "
	" Belfast	- -	5 30 "
	" Larne Harbour	- -	6 20 "

In Witness whereof the parties hereto of the first three parts have caused their respective common seals to be hereunto affixed and the Postmaster General hath hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written.

The Common Seal of the
Glasgow and South Western
Railway Company was here-
unto affixed in the presence of }

Common
Seal of the
Glasgow and South
Western Railway
Company.

PATRICK T. CAIRD,
Chairman.

V. H. GILLETT,
Secretary.

The Common Seal of the
Portpatrick and Wigtownshire
Joint Committee was hereunto
affixed in the presence of }

Common
Seal of the
Portpatrick and
Wigtownshire Joint
Committee.

MILES MacINNES,
Chairman.

JOHN THOMSON,
Secretary.

The Common Seal of the
Belfast and Northern Counties
Railway Company was here-
unto affixed in the presence of }

Common
Seal of the
Belfast and Northern
Counties Railway
Company.

JOHN YOUNG,
Chairman.

W. R. GILL,
Secretary.

Signed sealed and delivered
by the above-named Joseph
Austen Chamberlain M.P. His
Majesty's Postmaster General
in the presence of }

AUSTEN
CHAMBERLAIN.

Seal of
His Majesty's
Postmaster
General.

ALFRED W. COATES,
Private Secretary,
G.P.O., London.

My LORDS have before them the Contract, dated the 8th November 1902, entered into by the Postmaster General and the following Railway Companies, viz. :—

The Glasgow and South-Western Railway Company, the Portpatrick and Wigtownshire Joint Committee, and the Belfast and Northern Companies Railway Company, for the purpose of securing an accelerated conveyance of the mails between England and the North of Ireland by the route between (1) Carlisle, and (2) Belfast, Londonderry, and other places, *via* Stranraer and Larne.

The Contract, whilst superseding the Contract dated 22nd December 1892, ensures a continuance of the provisions of the latter Contract, and provides for a further acceleration of the Mail Service between Carlisle, Belfast, and Londonderry, without at the same time any increase in the subsidy of 13,500*l.* a year payable to the Contracting Companies under the Contract of 1892.

The Contract is to run for five years as from the 1st July 1901, being terminable on the 30th June 1906, or thereafter, on 12 months' notice by either party. The usual provisions are inserted against the sub-letting of the Contract or the participation therein of Members of Parliament, and the usual stipulation is made that the Contract is subject to approval by the House of Commons.

My Lords approve of the Contract.